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**Amendments to the Specification**

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/241,557, filed October 18, 2000.

On page 4, please replace the paragraph at lines 9-12 with the following paragraph:

The term "therapeutically weight-effective amount of ribavirin" means an amount that is sufficient to produce a sustained virologic response for at least about twelve weeks post treatment, preferably for at least about twenty-four weeks post treatment, most preferably forty eight weeks post treatment.